



THE

KNIGHT



Vol V No. 6 Issue #30 The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, Editor. April-May 1983

The NUMISMATIST PUBLISHES RIMŠA ARTICLE, MAY ISSUE !!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT By Robert J. Douchis

With this issue we conclude another membership year, our fifth! Our special 5th anniversary issue will be published June-July. Memberships have once again climbed over the 100 mark! I've noticed that increasingly, the new members have expressed an interest in the entire Baltic region, particularly Latvia. While we mentioned this at our December N.Y. meeting, and here in The Knight, not a single one wrote in. So as it stands now, we remain Lithuanian oriented, but will welcome articles from our Baltic brethren on numismatic topics dear to them.

While the recession is stabilizing and the economy may be on a slight upturn, the Lithuanian numismatic field has more than held it's own. Prices on the modern circulated issues have been solid while the UNC's have risen considerably. Bank notes have also seen considerable gain. As members complete the modern coin series, or are stymied in the banknotes, medals, or decoration fields due to costs/rarity, there is the fascinating medieval period to consider. For the same costs of a 1925 10 Centų in UNC you can obtain a Lithuanian 1/2 grašis of the early 1500's! If you study this period of history along with the coins, a whole new world will open up to you.

Now for the nitty-gritty. In the past, the entire membership received copies of our translation projects, i.e., the two Karys books. This was due to our being able to have them photocopied at little or no cost. Due to the tightened economy, our source is no longer available to us.

We now have ready to publish our English translation of Povilas Karazija's work, The Coin Hoards of Aluona-Šklėriai, and Krūminiai, Lithuania. This scholarly 84 page book was originally published in war-torn Lithuania in 1941 in the Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum Annual, and is one of the classics in Lithuanian numismatic literature. A preview of this book appeared earlier last year, written by Val Matelis under the title, "Two Hoards in the Vilnius Region."

The book deals with the archaeological finds of the coins of Kęstutis and Vytautas, and the scientific study Karazija took to analyze them. Contained are numerous pages of descriptions of each coin, tables, and pictures. It is a highly specialized work, and very scientific in its approach. Author Jonas K. Karys draws heavily from Karazija's writings when discussing these early coins.

We need the opinions of our members as to what course to take. To have it photocopied commercially would cost 10¢ a side (meaning 20¢ each sheet), for a total of around \$450 for 130 copies. Needless to say, this is outrageous for us. One option is to find a member who has access to a quality photocopier, and we could pay the basic paper costs. That way, the book could be sent to all members. If you have access to a photocopier, or to one at less than 10¢ a side, please contact us immediately.

Continued on next page...

We are excited and proud to announce that "The Medals of Petras Rimša," by Frank Passic, is the cover and lead story in the May 1983 issue of The Numismatist, published by the American Numismatic Association!

The lengthy article illustrates all of Rimša's 18 medals, including the four anti-Polish protest medals, and those issued after World War II in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. Ample space is devoted to descriptions of each medal, and to Lithuanian history.

The author introduces the reader to Lithuanian numismatics by stating:

Lithuanian medallic art is an especially untouched area of study, particularly because individual medals struck by various persons or groups were outlawed after World War II by the occupying Soviets, and because much technical data and certain design themes were censored. Much of the information available about Lithuanian medallic art is found only among the memories of aged Lithuanian exiles. Dedicated members of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, carefully recording and preserving these memories, are to a very large part responsible for the preservation of this rich and interesting numismatic field.

Lithuania's most outstanding medalist was sculptor Petras Rimša (1881-1961), a contemporary of Germany's Karl Goetz. Many of Rimša's designs reflect Lithuanian patriotic themes and range from religious subject matter to sarcastic political commentary. Because of the unfortunate chain of events that befell the Republic of Lithuania after World War II, Rimša's medallic works are relatively unknown. Rarely available on the market, his medals are highly prized and dearly cherished by Lithuanian collectors everywhere.

This is by far the brightest spotlight ever given by the numismatic press to Lith. numismatics! It is a MUST for any Lithuanian numismatist, and no doubt will become one of the "classics" in Lith. numismatic literature.

Continued on page 2.....

2. RIMŠA ARTICLE

Continued from page 1...

We strongly encourage every LNA member to acquire a copy for their library! The cost is 2.50 postpaid; you can get it by writing: The Numismatist, P.O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs, CO. 80901.

Several LNA members had a part in this article, and we would encourage your letters of comment both to us and to The Numismatist editor.

ZIKARAS MODELS

Continuing with our presentation of Zikaras coin models, in 1935 discussions began concerning the establishment of a Lithuanian mint. Zikaras modeled two 5 cent designs, pictured below, dated 1935. The top photo features a rūta branch, while the bottom depicts barley throughout the design.



The April 5 issue of World Coin News republished on page 1 our original article about these coin models! We hope many of you saw it. More coin plasters by sculptor Juozas Zikaras will be revealed in future issues of The Knight!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued from page 1...

If, on the other hand, we cannot find someone to do this, a more practical arrangement would be to offer the book on a subscription basis, for those who want it. We figure to have it done commercially (20¢ a sheet x 42 pages) would cost around \$10. Part of the price set would be to absorb the cost of several complimentary copies which must be sent to the translator, the Balzekas Museum, Copyright Office, etc.

We need your comments and suggestions as to what to do. \$450 is just a bit too much for us right now.

On another subject, another area of concern has been obtaining photographs to illustrate in The Knight. This has been a continuing problem for the past 5 years. Orchids or ruta's to the Balzekas Museum, which has supplied the majority of illustrations, and has let us use their camera. Still, we cannot always drive up to Chicago to snap a photo everytime we want a picture. We are fortunately in a financial position to seriously consider obtaining our own LNA camera with macro-lens. At the close of the last year we had a surplus of \$272 and received \$170 in donations this year. We expect to end this year with about \$350 in surplus (Not taking in consideration any special projects).

While discount camera lists abound, we'd like to hear from you if you have a true wholesale source for camera equipment, or a special "bargain." We must have your permission to go ahead with this. What is your opinion?

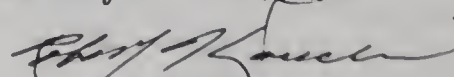
In the past, I've always voiced the opinion that our Knight is the life-line of our association. And today I feel even more strongly about that. The ability to maintain a first class publication depends upon you the membership to contribute articles to it. Put our editor to the test! Put together a story about some coin or note in your collection, and send it to him! Take advantage of the free classified advertising, or advertise in The Knight. It is there for your use.

We also encourage your response to questions which we might have, and surveys we undertake. Regarding the Dukes coinage survey last issue, the response has been discouraging, as only 3 replies have been received. Surely, there are more members than that with specimens! If you have only even 1 coin to report, please do so now.

For me, it has been a very rewarding and fruitful 5 years. First, to actually see the birth of our association and then to watch it grow in stature to the position where it now ranks among the top specialized numismatic organizations in the country. Thanks to each of you for making that an accomplishment of which we can all be very proud!

Next issue will be our 5th anniversary issue. We'd like this to be a "member's" issue, containing your letters and comments on Lithuanian numismatics and the LNA. We will be sending out the renewal subscription forms out in a few weeks, and will leave room for your comments for this special up-coming issue. We'll be looking for your letter.

In addition, let's fill our Want/For Sale section! What do you NEED in your collection? What do you have FOR SALE? Certainly this is the time to do some trading, or selling of those extra items in your collection!


Robert J. Douchis
Director, LNA.

CHICAGO PROVIDENCE OF GOD TOKEN

Brass, 21 mm.

Although this and other Chicago lodge tokens have been briefly mentioned here in *The Knight* (1979) in a re-print of Dr. Račkus' 1948 listing, we thought we'd switch gears this month and focus in on one of these tiny, but significant tokens issued by Lithuanian immigrants in Chicago.

The Providence of God Society was organized in 1900. Located at 717 W. 18th St. and Union Ave, a combined church and school was erected in 1901, and in 1905 the parish rectory was opened under the direction of Father Edward Steponavičius.

One of the parish's most formidable priests in the early years was Father Michael Krušas (1879-1950). Under Krušas' direction, the church building was erected in 1914. It still stands today, just west of the Dan Ryan expressway (I-90, 94) in Chicago, and can be seen from the highway.

As is the case with many Catholic churches in the city, the ethnic make-up has evolved from Lithuanian to predominantly Spanish (Mexican) today, as the Lithuanians moved elsewhere. This church had the honor of being visited by Pope John Paul II (who's mother is 1/2 Lithuanian) in 1979, during his famous tour. National television commentators noted the church had been founded at the turn of the century by Lithuanians!

Hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians fled their homeland at the turn of the century, with over 90,000 coming to Chicago. These impoverished people began to settle around the stockyards, where work was available in the slaughterhouses (remember Upton Sinclair's "*The Jungle*" about a Lithuanian immigrant?) and steel mills. The Catholic churches gave them a certain moral and material support.

The token pictured here is part of the collection of the late Dr. Alexander M. Račkus, now on exhibit at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, in Chicago. It is the only one known to exist.

OBVERSE: Inscription reads, "PROVIDENCE OF GOD SOCIETY," with the Eye of God on top. The border is dotted. Notice the inscription is in English. The majority of early Lithuanian lodge tokens contained Lithuanian lettering and/or inscriptions.

REVERSE: Inscription reads, "GOOD FOR 5¢ DRINK."

The May, 1981 issue of *The Numismatist* carried a lengthy article on the entire set of Chicago lodge tokens, written by this author.



This type of collecting is the kind that can be real rewarding. Many third generation Lithuanian-Americans are descendants of these early immigrants. This author is one of them.

This token has a special significance to me, as my grandparents, Nikodimas and Theodora (Barvidaitė) Kulikauskas were married here at the Providence of God by Rev. Krušas in 1913! They had immigrated to Chicago from Luokė, Lithuania (Samogitia) a year before.

To an ordinary collector, a small item such as this would seem very insignificant, but to me it is worth gold! This is what Lithuanian numismatics is all about!

Perhaps your father, or grandfather came to America, and left you with a small coin or banknote. The stories it could tell! Do you have an interesting item in your collection? Share the story behind it with our LNA members in our upcoming 5th anniversary issue!

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to member Paul Rog for sending us a photocopy of the Lithuanian portion of Alek. Platbarzdis' 1957 book, *Die Munzen und Des Papiergeld Estlands, Lettlands, Litauens*. Only 110 were originally printed, and we are very happy to have this in our files. If any member has a copy of Platbarzdis' original 1953 book, please let us know, as we still need that for our research files.

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Commercial advertising rates: Business card insert \$5 1 issue, \$25 for 6 issues. 1/4 page: \$12, 1/2 page: \$15, 1 page, \$20. Dealers: sell your Lithuanian material here! Our up-coming 5th anniversary issue would be an excellent time to advertise!

After some time, Rimša went to Petraplis and often took part in various architectural exhibits. In the "Pooščrenkos" exhibit he received a large cash award for his "Ploughman".

When the World War broke out, Rimša, together with other artists and sculptors of the Russian Empire, underwent severe hardships. To make a living, he built many models and (for some time) he even worked as a merchant. Still, all his leisure moments were spent in perfecting his works of sculpture.

After the war, when Lithuania became an independent nation, February 16, 1918, Rimša returned to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. He did not remain here long, for Vilnius was seized by the Poles on October 9, 1920. Rimša then went to Kaunas, the present capital of Lithuania. Not finding a congenial environment in Kaunas, he repaired to Berlin. Here he made the statue "Day and Night", which has been characterized by the critics as "graphic sculpture". While living in Berlin, Rimša occasionally visited Paris and London. In London he carved the bust of T. Norus-Norusevičius, minister of Lithuania, and made several bas-reliefs.

At present Rimša's permanent home is Kaunas where he works unceasingly and gives full rein to his vivid and fantastic "Lithuanian" imagination.

Rimša has come to the United States to acquaint the American people with his creations, which, while curious, fantastic and exotic, are nevertheless based on realism, and surely reveal the author's individualism. In the meantime he is searching for new forms of expression.

EXHIBIT B

MEDALLION I—"VILNIUS" In commemoration of the 600th anniversary of the founding of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania

Face A—Represents Gediminas, Grand Duke of Lithuania, the founder of Vilnius.

Face B—Gediminas' castle, the ruins of which are still to be found in Vilnius.

MEDALLION II—"VILNIUS" In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Great Congress of Lithuania held in Vilnius, 1905

Face A—The inscription is "Didysis Vilniaus Seimas". (The Great Congress of Vilnius).

At the head of the medallion a phrase from the National Anthem of Lithuania is inscribed. It reads "Iš praeities tave sūnūs te stiprybę semia". (May your sons draw strength from the Past).

Face B—Represents Independent Lithuania standing before her throne

ornaments, costumes, American and Indian handiwork, coins, stamps, medals, autographs, and maps. There was even an umbrella belonging to the Czarina of Russia. A. Račkus managed to form a Lithuanian section, in which were exhibited items such as coins of the era of Kęstutis and Vytautas, and many other examples of ancient monies, old Lithuanian medals, old Lithuanian seals, 16th century Lithuanian maps, a collection of Lithuanian amber, containing nearly 4,000 year old amber artifacts, found in the pyramids of Egyptian pharaohs. My medals were also exhibited in this section, as well as those of the famous American sculptor, born in Lithuania, Victor David Brenner.

My medals, apparently, attracted the notice of Americans. A. Račkus wrote that "visitors to numismatic shows, passing indifferently by other exhibits, would always stop at those cases in which were set out Petras Rimša medals, and enjoying themselves, would remain by the half hour." Even American sculptors eyed them approvingly. As an example, the sculptor-medalist J. Henris Ripstra, wrote me on April 18, 1931 as follows: "I recently viewed your medal collection, exhibited by Dr. Al. Račkus, at the Chicago Coin Club. They pleased me very much, and I congratulate you upon your style and technique. If possible, I would like to acquire a collection of those medals."

And thus my medals found their way into the world. They alighted in many places. Today, even I myself do not know exactly where they have found shelter. Here and there, they may be found in Europe, America, and in Asiatic museums, even in the collections of devotees in Manila and Tokyo. [We now skip to pg. 275]

While visiting Switzerland, I would almost always stay in the city of Le Locle, close to NeuChatel, near the French border. It is known as a manufacturing center for watches and other small metal objects. They are not particularly large concerns and factories. When visiting them, one does not see complicated machines, just ordinary joiners' benches with workers sitting at them who, with the help of the machinery and with little mallets and other tools, perform the required jobs with painstaking care.

Le Locle, among other things, is noted and widely known for the Huguenas Freres & Co., a stamping and engraving factory producing medals and plastic objects, as well as small metal items. With its refined technique, and ability to complete delicate work, it surpasses similar firms in other countries. And so I, when desiring to utilize the stamping technique, always turn to LeLocle. There were reproduced a large part of my medals before the Second World War: The Memelland, Vilnius Congress [notice Rimša slips this medal in to be mentioned, but earlier, the Communists did not allow it to be discussed], Vytautas, and others.

[We now skip to page 365, where Rimša begins his discussion of his Soviet-era medals. Notice the delicate use of words, and almost "devil's advocate" approach in the conversation about fleeing Lithuanians in advance of the Soviet army]

The People's Artist

I came into the Soviet reality unprepared, my luggage full of old ideas and with ebbing strength. I was unable to understand it well, or to grasp it clearly at the start. "Raised by the people, I created for the people."

So, what of my relationship with this new activated life? Always, my art resisted the pressure on the poor, and was a struggle against national discrimination. And though these desires and inclinations of mine could not always be expressed concretely, they were still inherent in today's being striding into the future along a straighter and clearer path, more than I was capable of accomplishing. Apparently, the Soviet government and the Communist Party viewed me in this perspective, when soon after

To be continued next issue!.....

FROM THE ARCHIVES

From the archives comes a memorial/obituary which appeared in the Chicago Lithuanian daily Draugas, Saturday, April 28, 1956. Written by "A.M.," it has been translated into English for us by Val Matelis, and also appears as part of our four-page preface in the upcoming LNA book translation, "The Coin Hoards of Aluona-Šklėriai, and Krūminiai, Lithuania," By Povilas Karazija. The material presented here is so interesting, we thought that our entire membership would enjoy it. More biographical material appears in the book.

POVILAS [Paul] KARAZIJA, former Director, Historical Section of the Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum, died in Kaunas in the fall of 1955. The deceased was a distinguished activist of Vilnius, a long-time member of the Lithuanian Academy of Science and of other Lithuanian organizations, until the Poles drove him from Vilnius for his Lithuanian activities. It seems that from 1936 on, he was associated with the Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum as Director of the Historical Section, in independent Lithuania. Mr. Karazija was one of our country's outstanding numismatists, being particularly knowledgeable of Lithuania's medieval numismatics. He had written and published in the Lithuanian Nation (1928), "The Vilnius Hoard," wherein he analyzed one numismatic hoard which was obtained clandestinely and at great risk. And in the 1941 Volume I of the Vytautas the Great Cultural Museum Annual, he published a penetrating study of medieval Lithuanian numismatics.

During the war, he prepared a basic dissertation of Lithuanian numismatics, and a second work on ancient Lithuanian masonry. He possessed the best library on those subjects in Lithuania. This library became part of the Lith. Academy of Science bookroom. However, there are rumors that a part of it was transferred into the "Great Fatherland:" now in some one of Moscow's libraries.

In the period 1942 to 1944, Mr. Karazija was interrogated in Kaunas by the Gestapo. He was accused of secreting some type of historical property, allegedly belonging to expatriates and the Jewish public, deposited in the Museum of Vytautas the Great, but which was now missing. Occasionally, the Gestapo would appear with long lists containing, supposedly, duplicates of this property, and other inventories. On several occasions, they even searched his lodgings. However, all ended favorably excepting one incident: in August 1941, several employees of the Museum brought in from Panėvėžys St. part of the Lithuanian Jewish Ethnographic Society and Museum, as much as was found on the premises after the Germans tore it apart. It was brought in a large wagon and stored in the Vytautas the Great Museum's warehouse, in a location known to Mr. Karazija. One of the Museum's employees divulged the story of this Jewish property.

A special investigator from the Berlin Gestapo, charged with authority over all Germany's and occupied territories Jewish affairs and their cultural wealth, arrived. That same Museum employee led the Gestapo officer to the location, warning no one. The next morning, the Gestapo arrested the Museum Director, P. Galunė, who knew nothing whatever of this find, and also arrested Mr. Karazija.

The special Gestapo investigator was so infuriated that he not only threatened him with a military trial, but fell on him and began choking him. Only by extensive planning and the use of bribes was he able to extricate himself. But this cultural property of the exterminated Jews, recovered with such difficulty, was that same day carried off to Berlin. After this incident of 1943, Mr. Karazija was questioned and threatened many times, but never betrayed even one of the Museum employees.

1982-83 LNA 5. MEMBERS

I--Institutional (sent free)

CM--Charter Member

xxx-membership number after charter period expired.

*--made a gift in excess of \$10 basic fee.

+--membership paid in advance for 1983-84.

CM Joseph Adomaitis, CT.
CM Rv. Peter Alisauskis, PA.
CM Vincent W. Alones, NY
I ANA Library, Colorado
I ANS Library, New York
162 John Armonas, MA
CM* William S. Arthur, CA
CM Jonas Z. Augustinius, IL
CM* Frank J. Backitis, SC
CM* John W. Balchunis, VA
CM Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, IL
181*Paul Barbatavičius, CANADA
CM* Dennis O. Bartaszkiewicz, NJ
201 William M. Bielskis, Jr. TN
CM* Edward J. Bochniak, NY
132*Julius W. Boris, FL
CM Madeline Bretanus, MA
I Bridges Newsletter, NY
CM Raymond R. Budd, OH
185 Michael S. Burokas, NJ
140 Kęstutis Chesonis, MD
I Coin World, OH
CM George M. Daru, PA
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189 Leonard Desanto, NY
CM Bruce Donahue, MA
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190 Matthew A. Dylis, Jr. NY
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134 Ray Hafsaas, WA
196 Edward Hartfik, MICH
149*Russel A. Hibbs, KY
122 Ruth W. Hill, MO
CM Don R. Hiltunen, MICH
156+John G. Humphris, OH
199 Janis Jekabson, NE
CM Jonas K. Karys, CT
CM* Claus C. Kassel, NV
CM* Carl Kazakauskas, PA
154 Albert G. Kendrick, NY
179 Brian J. Kenny, CT
193 Algirdas Kepalas, NY
191 Sally Kirka, CT

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6. JOHNSON FIRM REPLIES

Regarding our article about the mis-attributed Order of Gediminas sold in December by Johnson & Jensen, we received the following letter from that firm:



COMMEMORATIVE & HISTORICAL MEDALS - FINE ART MEDALS - 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MEDALLIC ART
"SCULPTURE IN COLLECTIBLE FORM"

Mr. Frank Passic, Editor
The Knight
Lithuanian Numismatic Association
1324-B East 60th Street
Tulsa Oklahoma 74105

9 March 1983

Dear Frank:

I received through Bob Douchis the December-January issue of The Knight. I am disappointed. The story about the recent sale of the Order of Gediminas insignia leaves much to be desired. From the hostile and judgemental headline through the rather provocative speculation as to the level of possible knowledge of the buyer this story was not on the objective level I have expected from past issues of The Knight.

First of all, I personally examined and catalogued this piece. Detailed information of far more common European decorations is hard to come by: specifics as to millimeter sizes, grades within an Order with and without collar, star or ribbon. In the case of Lithuanian pieces the gaps are wider than the printed descriptions. We often rely therefore on foreign expertise for some of these specifics, particularly the German auction house of Graf Klenau, whose sales 37 and 30 included both the Grand Cross (Grosskreuz mit Schärpe, vergoldet 55 mm) and the Commander's Cross (Komturkreuz, vergoldet 63 mm). The Commander's insignia is consistently the 63 mm piece.

As we specified, the ribbon was lacking, no additional insignia accompanied this lot, which I am still satisfied was accurately described. As to the association of the Columns of Gediminas with Klaipeda, as a symbol rather than as the specific arms of the port city, see the Karl Goetz medal on the return of Memel to the Reich, on which the more detailed (less stylized) Columns are a major design feature.

At Johnson and Jensen we strive for accuracy. We feel we consistently offer the most accurate descriptions in today's world medal auction field. As to the motives or inner thoughts of our bidders we have only one thought: if a bidder gets a bargain, good. That bidder will be back.

Most Sincerely



David T. Alexander



ORIGINATORS OF MEDALLION HOUSE BRAND MEDAL COLLECTOR'S SUPPLIES

8 Briar Ridge Road, P.O. Box 1085, Danbury, CT 06810, (203) 744-0851

Our military Orders & Decorations experts Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis supplied us the information for that article, and still both unanimously maintain that the 63 mm. (we list as 64 mm.) size is clearly a 2nd class award, Grand Officer! While there are differences in ways to measure awards, our experts have a complete 1-5 class set, and the 3rd (Commander's) class comes to around 53-55 mm. Regarding the Columns of Gediminas, this emblem is clearly associated with Vilnius, and NOT Klaipeda.

It appears that the German auction house of Graf Klenau likewise received erroneous information, for their 55 mm. is a 3rd class Commander, not Grand Cross, and the 63 mm. is again a 2nd class Grand Officer. See our original article in the February-March 1982 issue, pgs. 7-8 for the breakdown of classes and measurements.

We are always in need of corrective information in cases where we are wrong, but in this case, our research has stood the test. Well done, Vince and Hank!!

LNA 1982-83

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186 Guntis Kuskevics, CA
184 Dennis G.J. Kwain, IL
124 Bronislaw Lazauskas, CT*+
CM* Peter Leonard, PA
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200 Michael Yanuskevich, NH

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ORDER OF THE CROSS OF VYTIS

7.

By Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis. Continued from last issue....

READERS: We have recently acquired a huge amount of new information regarding the Cross of Vytis, and are still putting these facts and corrections together for the next issue. So this month we bring to you the list of rights & privileges of those awarded the Order of the Cross of Vytis.

- 1) Preference of obtaining gov'n't or administration jobs;
- 2) Privilege of free hospitalization in any government or local institution, when the ailment was related with military service;
- 3) The right to wear 3rd to 5th Orders all the time;
- 4) Free tuition in all government and local schools for themselves and their children;
- 5) The right to wear their full-time uniform (under certain rules) if in the reserve forces;
- 6) The privilege of upgrading their railroad accomodation class without paying for it, if in the reserve forces;
- 7) Exempt from paying into pension funds for the time served in Army or government up to January 1, 1925;
- 8) Preference to military sanatoriums for ailing active service officers;
- 9) 3rd, 4th & 5th cavaliers received so many extra years of service credit into their pension funds;
- 10) Yearly pensions for those over 50, according to classes: 3rd--5 pensions of 600 litas', 4th--25 pensions of 300 litas', 5th--50 pensions of 200 litas';
- 11) The availability of a one-time subsidy in exceptional cases of illness or misfortune;
- 12) Three stipends to their orphans and children, in schools of higher education;
- 13) Two months vacation with pay with those 4th class and higher, if still serving in the Army or local gov'n't;
- 14) 5th class holders received an automatic 1 rank elevation upon leaving military service, regardless of how long one was in his rank. Exceptions: those released from military service by a court, a court of honors decision, or by disciplinary action. The rank of General could be raised only with the intercession of the Minister of Defense, and by the President of the Republic;
- 15) 4th class recipients were raised one rank while in service, after meeting the following respective time requirements: Junior lieutenants & Lieutenants: 1 yr., Captains 3 yrs., Majors & Lieutenant Colonels: 2 yrs., regardless if their position was not suitable to their new rank, a more suitable position for such officers was assigned at the first opening available.
- 16) Priority rights over others to fill vacancies for 4th class recipients, Colonels and up;
- 17) 3rd, 2nd, and 1st class recipients could be raised one rank by the President, and Minister of Defense, regardless of any rules or norms of service in lower ranks;
- 18) 3rd class recipient Colonels could be presented the Order of Vytautas or Order of Gediminas, one class higher than those who did not have the Order of the Cross of Vytis;
- 19) Right to wear the sword's tassel;
- 20) Option to remain in active service, even after the war was over;
- 21) Restoration of any rights removed prior to awarding the Order, excepting when it did not concur with special law regulations. To be continued next issue....



ABOVE: 1st class Order of the Cross of Vytis, which is a neck decoration.

Last month we pictured on page 8 President Smetona wearing the Cross' Star. One of the persons in the photo is living here in the U.S.! He is Peter Jurgela, who served as a captain and correspondent in the 1920's, and traveled with Smetona!

Jurgela quickly identified himself and supplied the names of those in the photo: (left to right) 1) an unidentified woman, 2) Peter Jurgela, 3) Captain (later colonel) Aloizias Valuasis, shown saluting, 4) Smetona, and 5) Alexander Zilinskas, Minister of Justice.

Jurgela was the editor and proof reader for all the Lithuanian military books & journals. In 1926 he wrote a book on the Lithuanian Army, and included all awards to date. He is very impressed with our efforts at the LNA and is very happy to help us out. So there will be lots more here in The Knight.

We are still in need of locating a certificate presentation for the Cross of Vytis for photocopying, so we can present it to our readers. We would appreciate our members digging one up for us.

8. WANT ADS

FOR SALE: Jewish Vilnius ambulance/first aid revenue stamps, 10 & 20 kop. set. \$6. Dated 1912, shown is horse-drawn cart, Vytis, & Star of David. I also have several extra of the 20 kop. at \$3 each. Frank Passic, 1320 E. 60th St., Apt 3-P, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105.

Want/For Sale ads are FREE to LNA members! Lets fill this section up next time for our 5th anniv. issue!



Dealer in Quality Rare Coins
Lithuanian & Polish
WRITE:

Karl Stephens, Inc.

Karl Stephens
President

Post Office Box 458
Temple City, Cal. 91780

ANA 57209
213-445-8154

LNA 1982-83

Continued from page 6...

161 Kenneth C. Yurgil, IL
CM Edward D. Zemaitis, NY
159 Vincent Zemaitis, NY
175 Peter G. Zincus, MA

We especially thank all of you who made a donation in excess of the basic membership fee. These help us tremendously! In the past year the excess donations has went for: ANA membership, LNA meeting refreshments, Dukes coinage survey sheet, and postage costs.

Membership renewal forms will be sent in the next few weeks. Please feel free to make comments for our 5th anniversary issue.

We now have new leaflets to sign up new members. Write for one when you send in your renewal. We know that there are still lots more Lithuanian collectors out there who haven't joined the LNA. In fact, they probably haven't even heard of us! If you know of such persons, send them a copy of The Knight, and encourage them to join! In fact, we'd like to make more contact with our fellow collectors overseas, particularly in Europe and especially Australia, where there is a substantial Lithuanian community.

If you'd like to contact any LNA member on our list, just send your letter in care of us, and we'll forward it to him, as we don't give out addresses.

Again, thanks to all of you for making our LNA what it is today!

LETTERS

Commendations for printing the statistics on recent Lithuanian coin sales, and the accompanying article by Dr. Guntis Kuskevics. A similar record of Latvian and Estonian coins for comparison purposes would be most enlightening. Dr. Kuskevics points out that Lith. coins are exceeding catalog prices, while those of Latvia are 20-40 % lower. The influence of purchases by our LNA membership shows. If Latvians in this country are interested in their fatherland, and its coinage, they should get together, either as a national unit, or in conjunction with the LNA, to achieve similar results.

In another field, Dr. Kazys Būga, our pioneer philologist, advised his students, when faced with a problem in the etymology of an unclear Lithuanian word, Not to jump into the Sanscrit, but to "examine Latvian and Old Prussian dictionaries for derivatives; you will find help there." In unity there will always be strength.

Let us prepare for the time the Russian bear gets off our Fatherlands' backs, however long that will be. The last time it was over 100 years, but it came.

---Val Matelis, Coral Gables, FL.

It seems that the LNA is exactly what I have been looking for, an active association comprised of knowledgeable persons interested in the same things as me, especially Lithuanian military Orders & decorations. I'm enclosing a check for membership.

---John P. Witter, FINLAND

I have received both your letters, The Knight [Feb-March], and the article in World Coin News, about my father, Juozas Zikaras. I thank you very much for them and hope that in the future you will continue to send me all these articles which appear about my father. You see, I collect them and so does my sister who lives in Lithuania.

I remember the Belgium Mint Organization was very impressed with my fathers coins, because he spoke of it, but at that time I was too young and didn't pay much attention, not realizing it's importance. Many of the plasters I remember when they were being worked on by my father. On the 5 Litai Basanavičius coin, my father did sign his full last name on them, but if I remember correctly, they weren't put into circulation, and only a few were made [Pattern LNA-13c, KM-Pn2, J. ZIKARAS below bust]. But those with just his initials were circulated.

These plaster models are the pride and joy of our family, and seeing them reminds me of my father. They are all I have left. I enjoyed your writings immensely, and wish you lots of luck in the future.

----Son of Juozas Zikaras, designer of Lithuania's coins. (Name withheld upon request).

RIMŠA MEDALS

On exhibit at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago, 4012 Archer Ave (312) 847-2441 is the late Dr. A. Račkus' collection of Petras Rimša medals! If you are in the Chicago area this summer, by all means drop on in! This editor is in charge of the medal section of the Rimša exhibition, which will last until December. The sculpture The Ploughman, is also on exhibit, as well as Rimša's Gediminas plaque, which was donated to the ANS. Write for a free copy of the Museum Review. Zip: 60632.